

Message Text

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0514

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: BILATERALS AT DEC 12 AD HOC GROUP
MEETING

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AT ITS DEC 12 MEETING, THE AD HOC
GROUP HEARD REPORTS OF BILATERALS WITH EASTERN REPS
ON DATA EXCHANGE AND ON THE ALLIED AIR NO-INCREASE OFFER.
THIS MESSAGE ALSO CONTAINS REPORT OF DEC 12 EXCHANGE
BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAK DEP REP AND US DELOFF ON EASTERN
FREEZE PROPOSAL, DATA EXCHANGE AND POSSIBLE RESTRICTION
OF FIRST STEP TYPE AGREEMENT TO GROUND FORCES.
END SUMMARY.

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2. FRG REP (BEHREND) REPORTED ON A BRIEF BILATERAL

INQUIRY FROM SOVIET DELOFF (SHUSTOV) REGARDING HOW THE WEST ENVISAGED THE MODALITIES OF A DATA EXCHANGE. BEHREND'S COMMENTED TO THE GROUP THAT THIS WAS A FAIR QUESTION. BELGIAN ACTING REP (WILLOT) SAID HE ALSO HAD DISCUSSED DATA EXCHANGE WITH SHUSTOV, WHO TOOK A VERY TOUGH POSITION WITH HIM, STATING THAT THERE WERE A LOT OF MINISTRIES IN MOSCOW INVOLVED IN THE DATA QUESTION, WHICH WAS, THEREFORE NOT AN EASY ONE. SHUSTOV COMMENTED TO US DELOFF (KAPLAN) ALONG THE SAME LINES DEC 12, ADDING THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES WOULD TAKE A HARD LOOK AT THE DATA ISSUE DURING THE RECESS.

3. CANADIAN ACTING REP (MORGAN) SAID THAT CZECHOSLOVAK DEP REP (MEISNER) HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ALLIED AIR NO-INCREASE OFFER AND SAID THAT IT WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THE NEXT ROUND. ON DATA, MEISNER ASSERTED THAT ANY DATA DISCUSSION WOULD INEVITABLY INVOLVE DISCUSSION OF FORCES OUTSIDE THE REDUCTION AREA. GREEK REP (SPYRIDAKIS) REPORTED REMARKS OF ROMANIAN DEP REP (POPESCU) THAT REDUCTIONS MUST BE SUBSTANTIAL.

4. COMMENT. IN DEC 12 EXCHANGE WITH US DELOFF (KAPLAN) MEISNER EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH WESTERN READINESS TO STUDY THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL. US DELOFF REMINDED HIM OF ALLIED CRITICISMS AND SKEPTICISM REGARDING FREEZE, EMPHASIZING THAT THE ALLIES WERE MORE SKEPTICAL THAN STUDIOUS. MEISNER SAID DATA DISCUSSION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IF THE WEST WOULD CONSIDER A FIRST STEP TYPE PROPOSAL AND WOULD AGREE ON A DEFINITE TIME FOR AND AMOUNT OF "EARLY EUROPEAN DISARMAMENT." US DELOFF COMMENTED THAT CZECHOSLOVAK REP KLEIN'S DEC 5 PLENARY STATEMENT HAD BEEN UNDULY HARSH. MEISNER REPLIED THAT KLEIN'S "RHETORIC" WAS AIMED AT "HOME CONSUMPTION, AND WAS THUS OF NO IMPORTANCE." US DELOFF SAID EAST WOULD NOT APPRECIATE ALLIES EMULATING THESE POLEMICS AND SUGGESTED THAT EASTERN REPS EXHIBIT RESTRAINT.

5. TOWARD THE END OF THE CONVERSATION, MEISNER HINTED AGAIN, OBLIQUELY, AT HIS EARLIER REMARKS TO US DELOFF
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(MBFR VIENNA 434 AND 417), THAT THE EAST MIGHT MOVE "IN THE CONTEXT OF A FIRST-STEP TYPE AGREEMENT" TO A FOCUS ON GROUND FORCES. MEISNER DID NOT MAKE CLEAR WHETHER HE MEANT "FIRST STEP" REDUCTIONS OR A FREEZE. IN CLOSING, MEISNER SAID THERE WAS TENTATIVE (BUT NOT YET DEFINITE) AGREEMENT IN PRAGUE THAT HE WOULD REPLACE KLEIN AS HEAD OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION IN THE FIFTH ROUND. END COMMENT. RESOR

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